

Santa Monica Democratic Club

2022 Rent Control Board Candidate Questionnaire

Thank you for your interest in the Santa Monica Democratic Club endorsement. Candidates seeking the endorsement of our Club must complete and return the following questionnaire. Note that only registered Democrats are eligible for our consideration.

Please send the completed questionnaire to smdemocrats@gmail.com by 11:59pm on August 26, 2022. Interview appointment times with our Executive Committee will be scheduled on a first come first served basis as the questionnaires are returned.

Submitting this questionnaire constitutes acknowledgment that its contents are now part of the public record and may be reproduced and distributed by the Santa Monica Democratic Club.

General Information

Candidate Name: Ericka Lesley

Email Address: erickalesley4smrentcontrol@gmail.com

Phone Number: 424-902-2682

Candidate's Current Occupation: Community Health Worker

Candidate's Employer:

Campaign Contact Person (if other than candidate):

What qualifications do you bring to this office?

Why are you running? To ensure equity within our housing

What are the top issues of your campaign? How do you plan to address those issues once elected?

Community involvement and diversity in communication styles. Further outreach in diverse languages.

Please list all of your individual and/or organizational endorsements.

How long have you lived in Santa Monica? Where else have you lived, and why did you live there?

Since my 12 year old son was born

Will you pledge to serve on City Council for your entire four year term? yes

Party / Activism

How long have you been a registered Democrat? Have you ever been registered as a member of another political party, or as Decline To State? If so, which party and why? What is your experience with political activism? Have you ever volunteered or worked for a political campaign other than your own, and if so, in what capacity were you involved? Which political candidates have you endorsed or supported publicly in the past? Please list as many as possible.

I have been a democrat my entire life.

Have you ever signed for or publicly supported efforts to recall a public official from office? If so, please list the name(s) of the officials and why you felt they should be recalled. n/a

Please list any organizations with which you are a member, including any leadership position you have held in each organization. NAACP, BAAPAC (vice chair), IEEDAC (chair), Santa

Monica Black Agenda(chair), Westside MLK, PCG (chair)

Please confirm that you have read the latest version of the California Democratic Party Platform, as found here:

<https://cadem.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/CDP-Platform-2022-FINAL-1-1.pdf>

List any items in the CDP Platform with which you disagree. (This is in no way a litmus test for our endorsement; however, because the party delegates have worked so hard on every word of this platform document, we believe it will be a helpful guide to comprehend the policy differences between each candidate.)

Campaign Finance

Please indicate Yes or No to the following statements:

1. I pledge not to take contributions from oil, gas, and coal industry executives, lobbyists, and PACs. yes
2. I pledge not to take contributions from police or law enforcement unions, lobbyists, and PACs. yes
3. I pledge not to take contributions from development firms, lobbyists, and PACs.

If you answered No to any of the above contribution questions, please explain here:

Social Justice

In what ways can the City of Santa Monica ensure that, in a real, practical sense, Black Lives Matter in our community?

Expand the right to return to include home ownership.

In what ways can the Rent Control Board best protect the undocumented residents of Santa Monica?

Make sure that they are connected to resources and ensure that their status is protected.

How would you use your position on the Rent Control Board to assist BIPOC and other disadvantaged residents of Santa Monica?

To make sure that the process is equitable .

How do you plan to (in the moment) counteract any and all observed possible acts of micro-aggressions towards Women, African Americans, Hispanics, LGBTQ and others of marginalized communities from your fellow Boardmembers or members of the public? What is your experience in dealing with these situations? To address it as it happens,.

Housing / Development

What steps would you propose to address the homelessness crisis in the City of Santa Monica? Implement new programs that come to them that connect them to services on the spot.

What is your philosophy on the appropriate scope of development that should be approved in Santa Monica?

In what specific ways has Santa Monica failed to address the housing affordability crisis? What

concrete steps would you take on the Rent Control Board to better address the crisis? How can the City of Santa Monica meet its next RHNA cycle goal of 6,153 new deed restricted affordable housing units for low and moderate income households and 2,721 new market rate housing units?

By building on public land.

What is your assessment of the 2022 Housing Element proposed by City Council?

We need to build to make sure that we comply with the RHNA. To ensure that we maintain our federal funding

Rent Control

What do you see as the mission or purpose of the Rent Control Charter, both at its founding and in its present form? The mission is to advocate for tenants that have an inequitable and unjust landlord . For the rent control process to be uncorrupted by city council.

The Rent Board and its staff have committed to hosting a discussion about the city's rent control law with the community at large. The Charter has undergone periodic changes over its 43 year history. What areas of the Charter, if any, do you feel need enhancement or review at this time? None

Historically, how do you think landlords have fared regarding the return on their buildings, both before Costa-Hawkins and since? They have made a more than fair return. They have generational wealth due to an abundant return.

Are there any current trends in real estate speculation patterns that you see as an issue for the spirit of the Charter?

What are the biggest challenges to keeping tenants in their homes in Santa Monica? Do you feel that Costa-Hawkins and/or the Ellis Act need reforms, and if so, what are some examples of those reforms? The Ellis act needs to be reformed.

Ballot Measures

Do you support California Proposition 1?

Do you support the citizens initiative ballot measure which would tax real estate transactions over \$8M and provide revenue for affordable housing, rent subsidy, and SMMUSD? Why/why not? Yes, I support the citizens tax initiative. It raises more money.

Do you support the competing council-approved ballot measure which would tax real estate transactions over \$8M and provide revenue into the general fund? Why/why not? Do you support the rent control ballot measure which would permanently lower the rent control General Adjustment cap from 6% down to 3%? yes

Do you support the SMC bond measure? yes

Do you support the 1% transient occupancy tax ballot measure?

Do you support the cannabis business tax ballot measure? yes

Additional Questions

What role do you believe the Santa Monica Democratic Club should have in our City? If elected, how would you attempt to interact with the Santa Monica Democratic Club and other political organizations to ensure community buy-in on new proposals?